

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1806

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

UNCLAS LONDON 6729

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, PGOV, PINT, GJ, UK

SUBJECT: GRENADA INDEPENDENCE

REF: BRIDGETOWN 790

1. THE SUBSTANCE OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY LORD BALNIEL
AT CONCLUSION OF UK- GRENADA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
WAS CONTAINED IN PARA 2 OF LONDON'S 6300. VERBATIM
TEXT ISSUED 18 MAY FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE GRENADA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
WHICH BEGAN ON 14 MAY CONCLUDED TODAY. IT WAS HELD
AS A RESULT OF A DECISION TAKEN IN EARLIER TALKS BETWEEN
HMG AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRENADA GOVERNMENT AND
THE OPPOSITION PARTY HELD IN LONDON IN OCTOBER 1972
THAT THERE SHOULD BE A CONFERENCE IN MAY 1973 TO
DISCUSS A POSSIBLE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION OF THE
ISLAND AND THE METHODS BY WHICH GRENADA MIGHT PROCEED TO
INDEPENDENCE. IT WAS ALSO AGREED AT THAT TIME THAT IT WOULD
THEN BE FOR HMG TO DECIDE, IN THE LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES,
WHETHER IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO TERMINATE GERNADA'S ASSOCIATION WITH
THE UNITED KINGDOM BY MEANS OF THE PROCEDURE SET OUT IN SECTION
10(20 OF THE WEST INDIES ACT 1967.

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AT THE PRESENT CONFERENCE THE DELEGATES REPRESENTING THE
GRENADA GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION REACHED SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT
ON THE TERMS OF A POSSIBLE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION.
THE OPPOSITION MADE IT PLAIN THAT IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENT IN
GRENADA THEY COULD NOT AGREE TO ANY CONSTITUTION GOING FORTH
FROM THE CONFERENCE AS AN AGREED CONSTITUTION. THEY ALSO
ADVANCED ARGUEMENTS (FOR AND) AGAINST GRENADA PROCEEDING TO
INDEPENDENCE BY THE MEANS THAT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED. THE GRENADA
GOVERNMENT DELEGATION AGREED THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PRESENT
CONSTITUTION WOULD BE SUITABLE AS AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION
AND RENEWED THEIR REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE UNDER SECTION 10(2).

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE THE CHAIRMAN, LORD BALNIEL,
SAID THAT HMG WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER. THEY WOULD TAKE CARE-
FULLY INTO ACCOUNT NOT ONLY EVERYTHING THAT HAD BEEN SAID AT THE
CONFERENCE BUT ALSO ALL THE OTHER INFORMATION THAT WAS AVAILABLE
TO THEM. HE WOULD CONVEY HMG' S CONSIDERED VIEWS AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE TO THE GRENADA GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION PARTY.
END TEXT
ANNENBERG

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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